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**DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY**

NEWS LETTER

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY NEWS LETTER

Published monthly in Sacramento for and by Division personnel. Its pages contain current facts, problems, and events relating to Forestry and to the experiences of Division personnel.

F. H. RAYMOND -

STATE FORESTER

ADMINISTRATIVE
—DISTRICTS—

- I NORTH COAST
- II NORTHERN DISTRICT
- III SACRAMENTO
- IV SAN JOAQUIN
- V CENTRAL COAST
- VI SOUTHERN DISTRICT

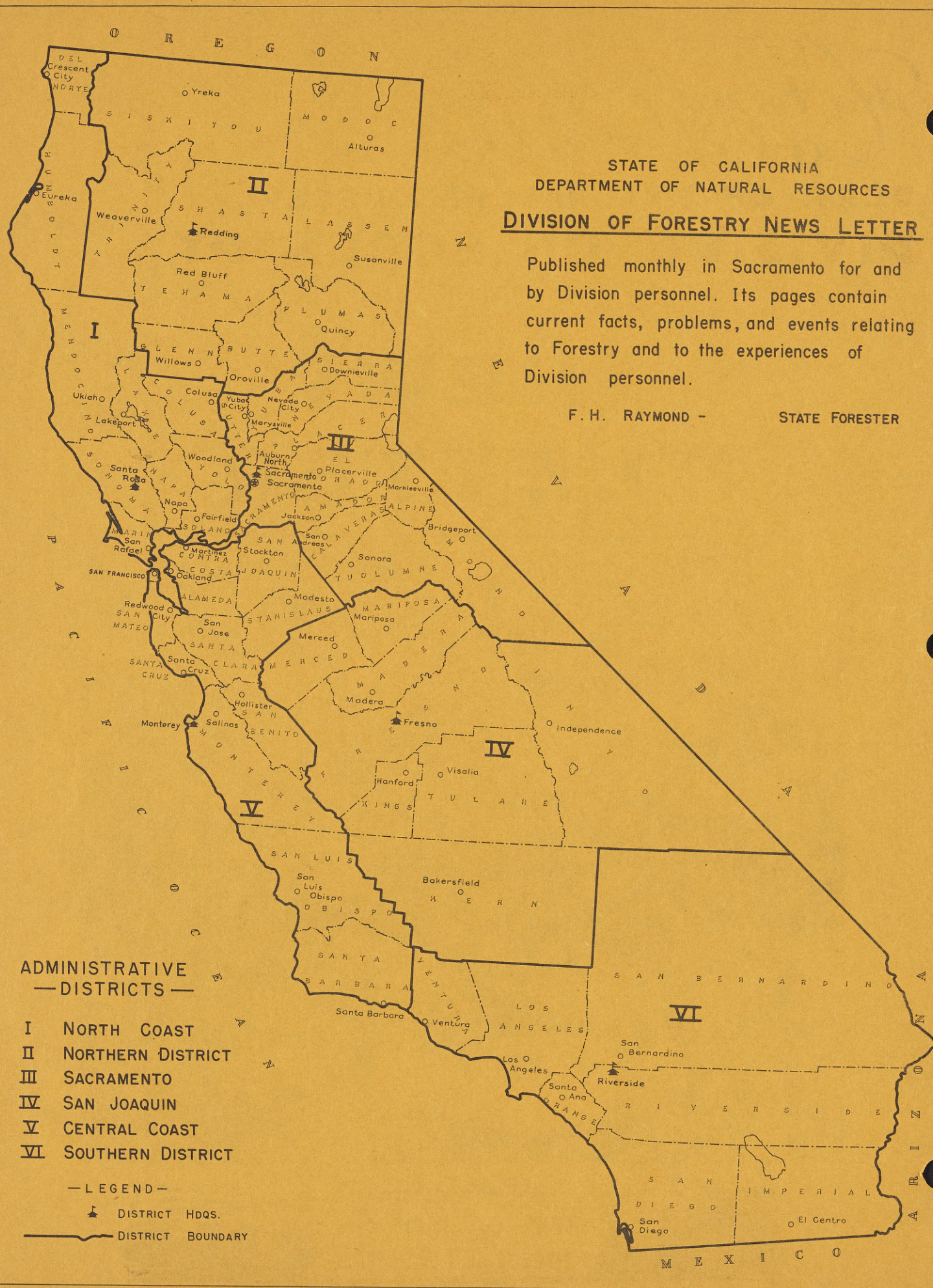
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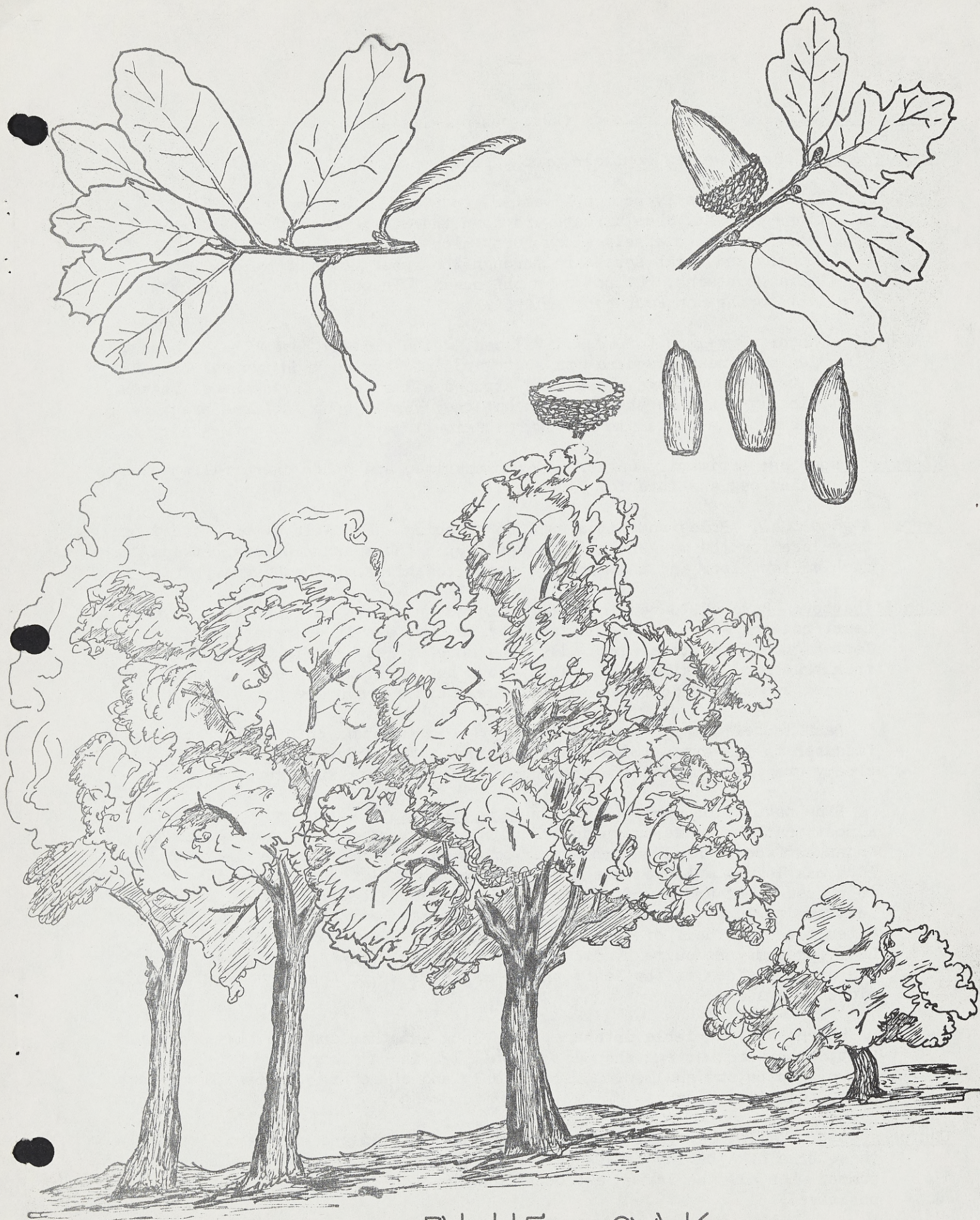


DISTRICT HQS.



DISTRICT BOUNDARY





BLUE OAK

BLUE OAK

Scientific Name: *Quercus douglasii* (kwer-cus-dug-lass-ee-eye)

Common Names: Blue, white, mountain, rock, iron, post, jack, Douglas (oak)

Location: In dry, generally poor soil at 500 to 4000 feet elevation, in hot locations from Mt. Shasta southward down the Sierra foothills through the Tehachapi and sparsely along north slope of San Gabriel Range. From Redding and Ukiah southward through the Inner Coast Range and Santa Lucia Mountains, but not near the ocean. In the Santa Ynez Range and east to the San Fernando Valley.

(Note: Engelman (or mesa live) oak, which closely resembles blue oak, is found near Pasadena and southward into Mexico upon typical blue oak sites, hot valleys, mesas and exposed hillsides. Engleman oak leaves closely resemble the blue oak but they remain upon the tree practically through the winter in that warm region.)

Associate species: Primarily digger pine; manzanita, and other chaparral species; valley oak and interior live oak.

Uses: A good fuel. Poles sometimes used for fencing. Probably often blessed by travelers for the meager shade it casts upon the sunburned land between the rich valley floor and the more protected foothills of the Sierra.

Identification: Bare of leaves in winter. Large trees are rare (probably due to heart rot and sharp axes); maximum may be two feet in diameter and sixty feet high. Young trees generally rise more or less straight for about 10 feet, then branch or fork heavily. Thin crown has early upward sweep, then rounds out and spreads as do other mature oaks. Limbs are quite brittle.

Bark is definitely "hard" looking, yet is furrowed into small ridges and fissures to the extent of appearing somewhat "shreddy." Bark color is creamy gray --- almost white where shaded from direct sunlight.

Blue oak leaves give the tree a blue smoke haze appearance. It seems almost that the leaves were dusted with a spray of pale blue-green powder. Under surface is somewhat more gray-green like that of valley oak and canyon live oak leaves. Leaves are 1 to 3 inches long, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches wide, variable in shape. Leaf end is often blunt and rounded. Leaves are thin but of leathery texture; generally flat, but sometimes bent up or down at the edge. Often the upper half of leaf is wider than the lower (or stem) portion. Leaf edges may be quite smooth or they may have a few gentle lobes cut into one or both sides of the leaf; there may be 2, 3, or 4 such rounded indentations on a side.

Acorns very variable in shape, some long and thin and sometimes slightly bent, others rather egg shaped; $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, light to dark brown. Acorn cup shallow, enclosing only end of acorn. Scales of cup more warty than sheath-like.

Confused with: Valley oak (which often grows intermingled and can be confused with those blue oaks having leaves having unusually deep-cut lobes. In late summer when all the leaves are dusty and dry the color distinction is less positive.)



TANOAK

Tanoak

Scientific Name: *Lithocarpus densiflorus* (Litho-car-pus-dense-uh-floor-us).

(Note: this tree was once listed as a true oak. It is a botanical link between oak and chestnut)

Common Names: Tanoak, tanbark oak. (Some rarely heard "oak" designations: burr, chestnut, sovereign, peach).

Location: From southwest corner of Oregon down throughout redwood region and somewhat beyond in a few spots of the Santa Ynez Range. Occasionally, throughout the ponderosa pine zone of the Sierra and there most common between the Feather and American Rivers. Grows among conifers on best sites or on dryer hillsides, sometimes in pure stands.

Associate Species: Madrone, laurel (bay), true oaks, redwood, Douglas fir and other native conifers, maple, buckeye, huckleberry, salal.

Uses: Bark contains valuable tannin used to tan leather. Many cords of tanoak bark have been peeled for that purpose; generally the excellent fuel wood left to form a rotting fire hazard in the forest. Wood resembles true oak and has been successfully used for tool handles, furniture, flooring, etc. Acorns once cooked into mush by Coast Indians.

Identification: An evergreen. Tanoak grows easily from acorns and sprouts vigorously at base after fire or chopping. Therefore, trees may rise singly or in clumps. In the closed forest canopy, trunks generally rise clear, straight and slim, with lower branches "shaded out" and the upper tree supporting a pyramidal crown of dense foliage. In the open, trunks may bend and fork with heavy side branches developing.

Young bark is "tight", smooth, and tough; pale brown or lead-gray, sometimes mottled with whitish splotches. Older bark becomes furrowed into tough plates or ridges, about two inches thick, gray-brown and reddish. Inner bark is rusty colored, shreddy and tough textured.

Trees grow slowly and few are more than 2 feet in diameter and 50 feet high, but maximum may reach four feet through and 85 feet high.

Leaves 2 to 5 inches long, 1 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, elongated oval shaped, 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ times longer than width; each side of prominent mid-rib rather symmetrical; 15 to 20 side veins running to each edge from mid-rib and ending in a slight prickle at the head of each minor "tooth" along the leaf edge. Leaves are flat with slight cup or twist along the edges. Leaves are medium yellow-green above, waxy but not polished. Young leaves lighter green and covered with dusty fuzz above. Under surface of all leaves is pale bluish-gray. Young leaves quite woolly and hairy. At end of first summer (leaves remain on tree 3 or 4 years) young leaves become leathery and lose woolly dust, but rusty hair-fuzz persists along mid-rib. (Disturbed fuzz can be very irritating to the throat of woodchoppers.)

Leaf stems are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or less in length and covered with fuzzy wool. Young twigs lose the wool and become reddish brown after first year.

Catkins stand rather erect in clusters at ends of branches (springtime and rarely in autumn) looking like soiled pipestem cleaners 3 or 4 inches

Tanoak (Cont'd.)

long.

Acorns grow singly or in pairs; tan colored and shiny after losing "frosty" gray down coating; $3/4$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, the width being about $2/4$ of length; acorn bottom blunt ended; upper portion egg-shaped. Acorn cup is very shallow and fringed with "chestnut" or "toothbrush" spines all around ($1/8$ to $1/4$ inches long). This spiny or narrow petal-like growth is rigid but not sharp pointed.

Confused With: Western (or Giant) Chinquapin which has no spines or teeth on smooth leaf edge and bears nut enclosed in chestnut-like burr. Might be confused with canyon live oak (which has smaller leaves with considerable variation in toothed edges; whitish shreddy bark on crooked trunk and limbs; sheathed acorn cup not spiny).

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

STATE FORESTS: A forest management school devoted to "Punch Card Techniques in Forest Management," sponsored by the University of California School of Forestry, was held in Berkeley, January 28 - February 1, 1957. One Division employee from Jackson State Forest and another from the State Forester's office attended this school as did some sixty other private and public foresters from throughout California. Plans are now being made to use machine card records in making a forest inventory and study of timber growth on one State Forest.

FOREST INSECTS: Two active forest insect infestations in the State were surveyed during January, 1957, by the Division of Forestry with the co-operation of entomologists from the California Forest and Range Experiment Station. One infestation extends from Yuba to El Dorado Counties. Young growth pine trees are being killed by the Western pine beetle and the pine engraver beetle. An aerial survey arranged by the Division revealed about 4,000 trees being killed. The other infestation is located in southwestern Kern and northeastern Ventura Counties. Some 200 pine trees are infested with the California flatheaded borer and the pine engraver beetles. Plans are to have both infestations approved as Zones of Infestation by the Board of Forestry at the meeting scheduled for February 8, 1957, and initiate control work immediately thereafter.

TIMBER TAXATION: Upon request of the timber industry, the State Board of Forestry met jointly with the Board of Equalization in Sacramento on January 11, 1957. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the interpretation and application of Section 12-3/4 of Article XIII of the State Constitution. This law provides for tax exemption for immature young growth timber on cut-over lands. The history of the law was reviewed, as well as subsequent development of policy on timber taxation by the Board of Forestry since 1952. The meeting was well attended by forest owners indicating a high degree of interest in the subject. No action was taken by either Board, but it was decided that the two Boards should pursue the matter further, and a joint conference was called for on February 7, 1957.

FOREST NURSERY: During mid-February, 1957, the Division of Forestry was host to an official visit by Assistant State Forester George Zappettini of the State of Nevada. The Nevada State Board of Forestry plans to develop a tree nursery near Reno with the co-operation of the U. S. Forest Service under the Soil Bank Act. The purpose of the visit was to tour the California Division of Forestry headquarters nursery at Davis and the Magalia district nursery which is operated in conjunction with the Magalia Honor Camp in Butte County. The layouts, equipment, and methods at these nurseries were reviewed for use in planning nursery development in Nevada.

FOREST SURVEY: During January, 1957, Division of Forestry personnel completed a project to check and review sawmills operating in the State for the California Forest and Range Experiment Station. This information will be used by the Experiment Station in making a survey of mills and production which is being done in co-operation with the Bureau of Census. The last survey was made in 1951 and many changes have taken place in the lumber industry in California since that date. The Division of Forestry also provided information on split products, post and pole, and charcoal operators. This work is part of a nation-wide survey to furnish both producers and users with up-to-date information on timber production.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT: Compilation of the annual summary of statistics on range improvement activity was nearly completed during January. A preliminary review of the data indicates the level of activity is about the same as for 1955.

On January 23 the Soil Conservation Committee of the County Supervisors Association of California held a meeting in Santa Rosa. One of the subjects discussed was "An Over-all Program of Brush Control." Personnel from the Sacramento and Santa Rosa headquarters participated in this meeting.

Some progress was made on compiling results of a grazing survey on Mountain Home State Forest. Field work for this survey was done during last August.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT: At a meeting held in Sacramento on January 11, 1957, the State Board of Forestry approved State co-operation in emergency revegetation of two critical watershed areas in Southern California that burned the last week of December. One of the burned areas is in Los Angeles County. It was caused by three separate fires burning about 30,000 acres in all. Seeding was done by Los Angeles County on 25,000 acres with State financial help to the extent of 50% of the cost of the work on private lands. The other burn, in Ventura County, covered about 12,000 acres of which 1,500 acres were to be seeded with State assistance.

The Division of Forestry also started an experimental study of the use of perennial range grasses for seeding burned watershed lands of Southern California. A total of approximately 1,000 acres of the area burned by the Sherwood, Hume, and Newton fires in Los Angeles County was seeded with a mixture of annual rye grass and perennial grasses in four different combinations. The Los Angeles County Forestry Department conducted the seeding, which was completed on January 15, 1957. Sample plots are being established by local Division of Forestry personnel, and data will be collected over a period of three growing seasons to permit evaluation of the effectiveness of these grasses in establishing a cover for watershed protection.

FIRE CONTROL: Considerable time was spent in working on the Annual Forest Fire Report and in finishing up the area determination for the 1957 Clarke McNary Area and Cost Revision.

Selected areas in Sahsta County were examined for changes in the Zones II - III lines.

The reports for the District I and District VI Inter-Agency conferences pertaining to minor pay protection boundary changes on the Six Rivers and Cleveland National Forests were completed and submitted to the U. S. Forest Service for the Regional Forester's signature.

The Inter-Agency Conference held in the various districts during the past year have resulted in the transfer of 327,695 acres, previously protected by the U. S. Forest Service, to direct state protection.

All status maps were brought up to date with all pay protection boundary adjustments indicated and errors on existing pay protection maps verified with the Regional Office and corrections made.

Two co-operative projects with the U. S. Forest Service and California Forest and Range Experiment Station were active.

As part of the aerial fire-fighting program, the U. S. Forest Service recently acquired a fleet of seven Torpedo bombers. One ship is being used as a pilot model for conversion to carry a large quantity of liquid. Engineers are designing a tank to fit in the ships bomb bay with a capacity of 500 gallons and the ability of making bulk drops on forest fires. Past tests with this type of ship indicate that this is a highly practical application and can be of material aid to ground forces in controlling critical segments of a fire. While this particular modification is in the drawing board stage now, it is anticipated that construction will begin shortly with the ship undergoing tests before the coming fire season.

The Division's experimental lightning control project received material assistance from the U. S. Forest Service Experiment Station in Missoula, Montana. Two technical personnel from Project Skyfire (a co-operative weather research program involving the U. S. Forest Service, the Munitalp Foundation, and the President's Advisory Committee on Weather Control) working with Division of Forestry personnel have evaluated and calibrated equipment used in last season's lightning control operations. From these investigations, modifications, and changes in procedure will be made to improve operations during 1957.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

FIRE CONTROL: Division personnel held meetings with two men from the project Skyfire from Montana to discuss the types of cloud seeding generators best suited to California conditions and modification of cloud formations to reduce lightning-caused fires. It appears that the Division will develop about twenty generators and put them into operation this summer.

Meetings were also held with a television engineering company to explore the use of a television camera to detect forest fires. We are now in the process of obtaining costs for installing one camera at Mt. Danaher this summer to further our experiment with this type of mechanical fire detecting procedure.

FOREST, RANGE, AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT:

FOREST PRACTICES: Timber harvesting in California reached an all time high in 1955 when over six billion board feet were reported cut by timber operators on registering for 1956 with the State Forester. Fewer timber operators registered in 1956 than in 1955. During the year, 1,718 permits were issued in comparison with 1,768 in 1955. This is the first time since the enactment of the Forest Practice Act that there has been a decline in the number of registrations from that of the previous year. Timber production for 1956 will probably be below the 1955 figure due to softening of the lumber market that occurred last summer.

There were 1,489 firms requiring forest practice inspection during 1956. The number of forest product harvesting operations by these firms requiring inspection were 2,094.

The total number of inspections of current operations in 1956 were 2,994. In addition, 578 inspections were made of delinquent areas logged in previous years. Improvement in the over-all degree of compliance with the Forest Practice Rules is rapidly leveling off despite continual inspection, education, and administrative enforcement effort. The stable operators comply for the most part. The enforcement problem basically centers around the unstable small operator who moves swiftly from one property to another. In general, timber operators have complied well with the Act and its rules. However, a substantial number of violations continue to be

made. Inspections during 1956 have shown that the forest practice requirements most often violated in decreasing order of occurrence were: snag disposal, registration, slash disposal, fire plan filing, posting on fire rules, fire plan preparation, erosion control, seed tree, and cutting undersized trees.

Recognizing the fact that the job of administration of the Forest Practice Act has changed considerably during the past few years and that there is a need for more effective methods for administration of the Act, the State Board of Forestry requested the Forest Practice Committees and the State Forester to review the Act and present their recommendations. After reviewing the Division's experience in administration of the Act, the several Forest Practice Committees, meeting jointly, recommended to the Board that action be taken to prepare proposed amendments to the Forest Practice Act, which would result in stronger rule enforcement measures. Efforts to strengthen the administration and law enforcement provisions of the Act are being sought during the 1957 session of the State Legislature through amendment of the Forest Practice Act.

Members of the Forest Practice Committees of the Redwood, North Sierra Pine, South Sierra Pine, and the Coast Range Pine and Fir Districts met in Sacramento on February 7 and 8, 1957, to review developments in respect to proposed amendment of the Forest Practice Act. Following adjournment the group met with the State Board of Forestry on February 8, 1957. Additional meetings of the Board of Forestry and the Forest Practice Committees on this subject were scheduled for March.

An alternate plan for the Mosquito Tree Farm was approved by the State Board of Forestry in Sacramento on February 8, 1957. This plan permits a deviation from the local Forest Practice Rules of the South Sierra Pine Forest District with respect to cutting small trees to improve forest growth.

Twenty-six alternate plans to the Forest Practice Rules were revoked by the Board of Forestry on February 8, 1957, which were ineffective or inoperative because of Forest Practice Rule revisions, completion of plan, change in ownership, or change of intentions of owner.

The eighth annual Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference was held in Sacramento on February 14-16, 1957, under the theme of "Young Growth and Young Ideas." Representatives of the Division of Forestry assisted in the preparation of the program, and participated in the conference along with timber owners, operators, equipment dealers, and foresters from throughout California. Governor Goodwin Knight gave the welcoming address to the conference which was held at the State Fair Grounds. This conference affords an excellent opportunity for members of industry to meet with their associates in public and private organizations to exchange ideas, discuss new methods and techniques in logging, as well as mutual problems.

TIMBER TAXATION: The State Board of Forestry and the State Board of Equalization held a joint conference in Sacramento on February 7, 1957, to further pursue timber taxation problems. A number of County Assessors also participated. The taxability of reserve timber on cut-over land under Section 12-3/4, Article XIII of the State Constitution and other aspects of that constitutional provision were discussed. No agreement was reached as to whether reserve timber on cut-over land was taxable, but the joint Boards decided to sponsor further studies of the problem. The conference authorized a legal study of the matter by legal counsel from the office of the Attorney General and the State Board of Equalization, and Dr. Henry Vaux, Dean of the University of California School of Forestry. Another study

group made up of representatives of the State Board of Forestry, Board of Equalization, and County Assessors to make a pilot study of timber taxation in Mendocino County was also authorized.

SERVICE FORESTRY: Under the Service Forestry program, the Division provides advice and in-the-woods assistance to small woodland owners on forest management problems; such as, which trees to cut, reforestation, products that may be derived from one's timber, and simple inventories and management plans. During the year of 1956, the seven service foresters employed by the Division, received 1,174 requests for services. Seven hundred and sixty-one woodland owners, involving 110,588 acres were given advice and forest management assistance, and 153 wood products operators were also advised. Some 221 landowners were persuaded to follow improved practices and plant 848 acres. A total of 5,927 acres of timberland were saved from premature harvest. Landowners harvested 58,606,000 board feet of forest products for a total value of \$687,526. The service foresters referred 47 landowners, involving 28,696 acres, to consulting foresters.

BLISTER RUST: Results of the blister rust control activities on state and private lands during 1956 were released by the Blister Rust Control Unit of the U.S. Forest Service. The program is co-operative between State, Federal Government, and private landowners, and is designed to keep in check further spread of white pine blister rust in valuable sugar pine stands. Control is accomplished by the eradication of the alternate host of the disease, wild gooseberry and currant, within those stands that justify treatment for economic and silvicultural considerations.

The control work on State and private land is accomplished under direction of the Blister Rust Control Unit personnel by agreement between Division of Forestry and the Federal Government as provided by law and State Board of Forestry policy. The State appropriation for 1956 for this work was \$125,000, and private owners furnished \$6,050. State funds are used to match private and Federal funds.

During 1956 gooseberries were eradicated on 11,779 acres of State and private lands. The State lands included Latour State Forest 23 acres, Blodgett Forest (University of California) 108 acres, D. L. Bliss-Emerald Bay State Parks 301 acres, Calaveras Big Trees State Park 336 acres, and Mountain Home State Forest 233 acres. Work accomplished on Mountain Home State Forest was with the use of inmate labor from the Bear Creek Honor Camp. Work on other State lands was performed by private contractors. An additional 11,957 acres were checked and met standards without work. There were 1,981,000 gooseberry bushes destroyed requiring 7,275 man days.

The status of the control program shows that there are 237,162 acres of privately owned land of which 186,173 acres have received initial eradication. On the 10,441 acres of State land, 7,808 acres have had the initial removal of gooseberries.

SOIL-VEGETATION SURVEY: Representatives of all agencies co-operating in the Soil-Vegetation Survey met at Davis, California, on February 26, 1957; to review progress, and plan operations for the 1957 field season. During the calendar year 1956 field work was completed on a total of 605,000 acres; 417,000 acres were surveyed in Tehama County; and 188,000 acres in Humboldt County.

Quadrangle maps, at a scale of two inches equals one mile, were completed and published for 215,000 acres in Humboldt and Tehama Counties during the calendar year. Drafting was completed for quadrangle maps of an additional 500,000 acres.

Much of the drafting on the generalized soil map of Glenn County was finished.

At the beginning of the 1957 field season all members of the field crews in both Humboldt and Tehama Counties will be men with previous experience on this project. Progress during the coming season should be more rapid than during previous years when a considerable amount of time had to be devoted to training new personnel.

The Soil-Vegetation Survey of privately-owned lands in the State is financed from funds appropriated by the State Legislature to the California Division of Forestry. The Division of Forestry is responsible for administrative direction of the survey; field work and other phases are performed by the California Forest and Range Experiment Station of the U. S. Forest Service and the University of California, under contract with the Division of Forestry.

RETIREMENT

Ben S. Allen, 74, went into semiretirement January 15 after a distinguished public career. The man who first focused world attention on Herbert Hoover, Allen has served as secretary of the Redwood Region Conservation Council and chief of the conservation division of the California Redwood Association for the past seven years. He will continue as a consultant to both organizations.

San Francisco Examiner 1-14-57
California Redwood Association Press and Periodical
Digest, January 15, 1957

The following letter was received in the Sacramento Office:

January 12, 1957

Dear Sir:

Forgive my asking this favor if you are inconvenienced. Our local paper often has names of younger people desiring someone to correspond with. I enjoyed this while in High School twenty some years ago. Life and its years ended many of these friendships through marriage and death.

Now I would like to hear from some who are in "Look Out Stations" or have interests similar to mine.

Age 45 - 5' 2" - employed in a hospital, floor duty, on 11-7 shift. My hobby flowers, collecting rocks, travel when I can - Anything pertaining to God's Great Outdoors thrills me.

Thank you.

s/ Ruth Hough
1142 Jefferson
Wichita, Kansas

RESEARCH AND ITS APPLICATION TO FORESTRY EDUCATION by Elmer W. Shaw, Editor

Research is curiosity with a purpose. Or, as Webster defines it, research is "a critical and exhaustive investigation or experimentation, having as

its purpose the revision of accepted conclusions in the light of newly discovered facts."

Research in forestry, like research in other sciences, is based on a system of experimental investigation called the "scientific method." Laboratory techniques and controlled experiments have become so much a part of modern science that we are inclined to take them for granted. But not more than a few centuries ago, researchers who exhibited "curiosity with a purpose" were often ridiculed, condemned, and even burned at the stake for heresy. For example, the persecution of Galileo was typical of the resistance to all new ideas so prevalent during the early Renaissance period.

During the Dark Ages, research and scientific study were practically unknown. In those early days, man's ideas about the universe and nature were based on theological dogma, philosophical speculation, mythology, and superstition. In many places even the forests were believed to be haunted by spirits and deities.

One of the pioneers in research was Roger Bacon, who lived during the 13th century. Later came other thinkers and scientists such as Copernicus, Leonardo da Vinci, Galileo, Kepler, Francis Bacon, John Stuart Mill, Harvey, Newton, Huxley, Darwin, and Einstein.

Research is often regarded as a cold, mechanical process that robs life of its beauty and mystery. This is not always true. Actually, modern science is man's organized effort to penetrate and understand the world around us. These scientific explorations range from the heart of the atom to the frontiers of the universe, and like great poetry or fine music often reveal depths and mysteries far beyond and quite different from the ordinary, matter-of-fact world to which we are accustomed. For example, how can we evaluate or even begin to understand the awe-inspiring implications of man's recent research in nuclear physics and space travel?

In comparison, forest research is not so dramatic or exciting, but at least the principles are much the same. How then do these scientific techniques apply to problems in forest education? Should our goal be to train more and more technicians who understand everything about their job except its real purpose? Or is it possible in our woodland laboratories to teach something more than how to cruise timber or judge range conditions? Perhaps with proper guidance and stimulation, our students can also learn the fundamentals of a technique that science has used to develop this remarkable civilization of ours. The need for clear, unbiased thinking can be demonstrated as a paramount requisite of research. The importance of careful measurement, accurate records, proper sampling, adequate controls, mathematical evaluation, and effective writing can also be stressed to good advantage. This does not mean that the student should be smothered in a miasma of statistics and technical jargon! Rather he should be challenged and stimulated to think more logically, to observe more carefully, to evaluate evidence or data more objectively, to question systematically, to express himself more effectively, and to face life with an open mind.

Reprinted from the Colorado Forester, 1956, page 19, with permission of the Colorado A & M Forestry Club

EXCERPT FROM MANUSCRIPT "CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT AND FORESTRY," by C. R. Clar

The dominant place that agriculture would assume in this new American State was probably anticipated even before the conquest of 1846. As early as

1853 there was incorporated by legislative act a California State Agricultural Society. In that act is to be found the basic authority for the annual State Fair.

In 1863 the law was amended to provide for the election, within the Society, of a Board of Agriculture. The authority and duties of the Board included the collecting and diffusing of information calculated to aid in the development of agricultural, stock raising, mineral, mechanical, and manufacturing resources of the State. Before each legislative session the Board was required to furnish the Governor a "full and detailed account of all its transactions....."

In the report of Transactions for the years 1868-69, Board President C. F. Reed outlined the status of agricultural affairs for Governor H. H. Haight in 35 pages, of which more than seven were devoted to the condition of the forests.

This report is now as fascinating as it was then lugubrious. Quite obviously, the words were intended to shock the citizens and their elected officials into some prompt action. Nevertheless, the responsible author must have believed his own story. Contemporaneous publications show that he stood with the most scholarly company in believing that the very life of an agricultural society, and thus every high civilization, depended upon the maintenance of a landscape covered at least one-third by high trees.

It is also to be noted that there is no mention here of the 1868 law which did to a certain extent provide an inducement for roadside tree planting through a system of county bounties. Probably that law was considered to be of no great consequence in view of the total problem. It was, however, indicative of influential opinion of the time.

There follows a brief summary of the forestry portion of the official report of 1868-69 presented by quoting excerpts from the printed document:

Tree and Forest Culture

"We have frequently called the attention our agriculturists to this subject, and have at different times urged action in its behalf by the Legislature. No more important subject can be named for legislative encouragement or for energetic action on the part of the people. Whoever takes the trouble to look this subject fully in the face, and reflects upon the future of California, must feel, as we do, that something should be done, and that immediately, looking to the substitution of new forests in the place of the old ones in our State, now so rapidly being consumed and destroyed.

"- - - we have thoughtlessly come to regard our supply of these materials - - as inexhaustible. The facts are quite different. - - - California is far from being a well-timbered country. Nearly all the timber of any value for ship and general building purposes, or for lumber for general use, is embraced within small portions of the Coast Range or the Sierra Nevada districts. Redwood, the most valuable timber in the State, and probably in the world, taking all its qualifications into consideration, is principally confined to the counties of Mendocino, Sonoma, and Santa Cruz. - - - Humboldt, Trinity, Klamath, and Del Norte embrace nearly all of the balance of the timber value in the Coast Range. It is most of an inferior or hybrid redwood, spruce and pine. The lumber district of the Sierra Nevada, is principally embraced in the Counties of El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sierra, Plumas, and Siskiyou. Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa contain only scattering blusters of valuable timber, though some of the largest and finest trees in the

world are found within their borders.

"- - - It is therefore safe to estimate that not over one-twentieth of the State is covered with trees valuable for timber or lumber. (Author's note: three-twentieths would have been a conservative estimate).

"It is now but about twenty years since the consumption of timber and lumber commenced in California, and yet we have the opinion of good judges, the best lumber dealers in the State, that at least one-third of all our accessible timber of value is already consumed and destroyed! If we were to continue the consumption and destruction at the same rate in the future as in the past, it would require only forty years, therefore, to exhaust our entire present timber supply. This, in itself seems like a startling proposition, but let us look a little farther and we shall find truths and considerations more startling still. In the twenty years to come we shall probably more than double our population

"- - - we are now just entering upon an era of active public improvements all requiring the use of heavy timber and lumber. - - - The building and equipping of railroads - - - in our State has really but just commenced.

"One of the worst features of the settlement of new countries by Americans is the useless and criminal destruction of timber. In our State this reckless and improvident habit has been indulged in to an unprecedented extent. - - -

"In the above statements - - we have taken into account only such timber as is fitted for building and for lumber for general purposes. As for hard wood, fit for wheelwright purposes and agricultural and other machinery, we may say there is none of it on this coast. - - - For ornamental work we have a limited supply, the California laurel being very superior.

"Taking all the agricultural counties of the State together, including the cities and town with them - - - it is doubtful whether - - - they will be able to supply their own demands for fuel for ten years to come.

"- - - To illustrate - - - while there is within an area of twenty miles from either of the cities of Marysville, Stockton, or Sacramento a plenty of wood for a year or two's supply, and it costs but two dollars a cord to have it cut, yet the present price of wood in each of these cities is about ten dollars a cord.

"- - - These facts show how extremely expensive and oppressive it would be to undertake to supply the cities of the State with wood from the distant mountains. And yet, what other resource will be left a few years hence? California should become - - - one of the greatest manufacturing States of the Union; but where will we obtain the fuel to generate the steam that propels the machinery?

"- - - - - In twenty years we will probably have four thousand miles of railroad completed - - - consuming one million seven hundred and ninety-two thousand cords of wood per annum. This, added to the increased consumption for all the other purposes of life, will make rapid inroads into the few sparsely wooded portions of our State, if there should be any trees left standing at that time.

"The first effect of the scarcity of lumber and wood will be to enhance the cost. - - - - The cost of lumber for building and fencing, in most of our agricultural districts, obtained as it is at a distance of hundreds of miles, is even now so great that our farmers are among the poorest housed people of any

agricultural community in the Union where the country has been settled an equal length of time. - - - The cost of lumber of wood is already discouraging every mechanical, every manufacturing, and every commercial industry of the State, for the use of these articles is in some way an important element in them all.

"- - - we believe we are within bounds of truth when we state that not over one-eighth of the entire surface (of the State) is covered with trees of any description whatsoever. (Author's note: two-eighths would have been correct). It is the opinion of the best judges, founded on historical facts, and a long series of observations and experiments, that at least one-third of the surface of any country should be forests. - - - Fire has undoubtedly been the original and active cause of so great a proportion of prairie or untimbered land within our borders. Being once destroyed, the consequent climatic condition of the country has prevented a reproduction of the original forests. - - -

"That the nakedness of the earth's surface is the cause of the extreme wet and dry seasons in our State, and particularly of the destructive floods - - - can not for a moment be doubted by any one at all acquainted with the laws of nature - - - .

"- - - The remedies for existing and impending evils - - - are two fold. The one preventive and the other restorative. - - - The press should take up the matter - -. The Legislature should exert its utmost influence and authority to dissuade and prevent the continuance of practices so threatening to the prosperity of our commonwealth. It should call the attention of the General Government to this subject - - - - - .

"- - Liberal bounties or premiums should be offered for the cultivation of forests and woodlands on every farm and homestead throughout the agricultural portion of the State and means should be taken to secure the reproduction of the native forests in the mountains - - - for it will require thousands of years to reproduce a full grown forest tree. - - - Other States are engaging in the enterprise with energy and success, and that too, when the necessity is not half as great as ours.

"- - - - If we are not careful, Europe will, in a very few years, own greater forests of our valuable redwood trees than California ever could boast of. - - - - -"

In the printed Transactions of the State Agricultural Society for the year 1872 is an article entitled, "Arboriculture, or Tree Culture." The author was concerned about promptly getting on with the business of planting trees in California. He presented what he believed was the first description of what is now called a seed drill. He recommended welding a chisel onto four feet of hollow gas pipe. The chisel would be thrust into the soil and a seed or two dropped down the pipe. The China-berry tree, (of the genus *Melia*, which includes the familiar umbrella tree) was strongly recommended for widespread planting. The author's main object was to "dispense with the expensive and useless process of nursery culture altogether." Said J. W. Jones, the author,

"That the local Governments of many of the State will encourage the planting of trees as a work of necessity, will some day be understood; and that Congress will some day awake to the great importance of the matter is to be expected; but, in the meantime, if it require one-third of the surface of the

to be covered with trees, to produce and maintain a congenial state of the atmosphere and a healthy existence, much must be done by private enterprise."

PERSONNEL CHANGES

SACRAMENTO ADMINISTRATION: Fred Keast, former Associate Ranger in the District V office, has been appointed as Ranger I to Sacramento to replace John Hanstings in the Fire Control office.

William H. Fairbank has left the Division to accept an exempt position as Assistant Director, Department of Water Resources.

DISTRICT I: Phillip Lowell, Trainee, has left for military service.

Ranger William F. Mann has transferred from Tulare County to take over the administration of Mendocino County, replacing Ranger Campbell.

Ranger Jack S. Kessler has been promoted to take charge of Sonoma County, filling the vacancy left by Jim Glenn. He was formerly in charge of Amador County in District III.

DISTRICT II: Ranger Charles P. Campbell has transferred from Mendocino County to Butte County to fill the vacancy there.

Ranger John S. Lockhart, formerly in charge of Calaveras County, has been promoted to take over Shasta County, left vacant by the recent retirement of Jess Graves.

DISTRICT III: Ranger John Hanstings has transferred out of the Sacramento Fire Control Office to take charge of Calaveras County, replacing Ranger Lockhart.

Godfrey German, former Associate Ranger in Monterey County, has been appointed as Ranger to Amador County.

DISTRICT IV: Associate Ranger Norman F. Nicholson has been transferred from Mariposa County to the District IV office to replace Robert J. Moran.

Robert J. Moran has been appointed Ranger I to have charge of Madera County, replacing Ranger Phibbs.

Ranger George Phibbs has been promoted to take charge of Tulare County.

PRESS RELEASE DATED MARCH 11, 1957

State Forester F. H. Raymond today announced the promotion of Eugene "Gene" Bertsch to the position of Deputy State Forester in charge of the Division of Forestry's state-wide forest fire prevention program with headquarters in Sacramento. "This promotion, Raymond said, will fill the vacancy created when William H. Fairbank Jr. left the Division of Forestry on February 1 to accept the position of Assistant Director of the Department of Water Resources."

Bertsch has been Assistant Deputy State Forester in the Southern California district for the past ten years with headquarters in Riverside. He is married, has three children; ages 15, 5, and 3, and will move his family to

Sacramento in the near future.

Gene, as he is known by fellow employees, was born in Bellevue, Iowa, and attended schools in Davenport. He entered State service with the Division of Forestry in San Diego County as a dispatcher-clerk in May, 1936; was promoted to Assistant Forest Ranger in 1938, and to Associate Forest Ranger in 1942. He enlisted in the Navy in April, 1944, and served until December, 1945, when he returned to the Division of Forestry. He was promoted to Assistant State Deputy Forester in 1947, and has served in that capacity until this promotion which was effective on March 1.

Mr. Bertsch's assignment, in addition to direction of a state-wide fire prevention educational program, will include supervision and co-ordination of the Division's law enforcement activities, physical hazard reduction abatements, and general informational services on the State Forester's Staff.

CALAVERAS COUNTY

Once again Calaveras is up for adoption as it has again lost its foster parent -- the ranger. So it seems to us in losing our Mr. Lockhart to Shasta County. Here for six years, John has earned a friend in each employee and we will miss him. Although Shasta was his first love, we hope he does not forget us in Calaveras and our very best wishes go with him on his new assignment.

February 2nd, under Assistant Ranger John Jackson's excellent guidance, Forestry personnel and their wives held a farewell party for the Lockharts at Hamby's subterranean banquet rooms. (These rooms are rather unique since the walls are formed by roughly-hewn natural rock formation).

A smorgasbord was prepared by our cook, Lillian Driver, and each dish was a work of art. One salad was particularly fascinating in that it had a live miniature pine tree completing a painting of a red fire truck done in red mayonnaise. Everything tasted just as good as it looked.

Toastmaster Assistant Ranger "Pete" Peterson was at his best and was ably assisted by Forestry Equipment Operator Levi A. Paulk. Those jokes!!! Tsch! Tsch!

As a memento, Ranger Lockhart and the "Mrs." were presented with an electric frying pan and also a book titled, "Tales of Calaveras," by Dr. Coke Woods.

Energy for the dancing, which rounded off the evening, was transfused at a long long counter (where you could rest your elbows) and diffused on the dance floor. 2:00 P.M. saw a tired group finally on the trek homeward.

Positive proof of John and Carol's popularity was the almost perfect attendance at the party of the whole Forestry family.

Last December 7th Rosetti's was the setting for a retirement party held in honor of Assistant Ranger Woods, who had to retire because of ill health.

The steak and ravioli dinner was excellent and Toastmaster "Pete" Peterson was well-prepared with his bag full of jokes.

"Woody" was presented with a barometer about which he quipped "When the temperature hits 110° and the humidity is down to 14, I'll be thinking about you people in Calaveras."

Good people, good drinks, and good music for dancing turned this occasion into one of the nicest parties ever held and everyone decided to have more of these get-to-gethers.

Arrangements for this party was made by Assistant Ranger Jackson. (He's getting to be quite an Elsa, No?)

The I'm-building urge has hit our Forestry employees and pretty new abodes are already being enjoyed by the Levi Paulks and the Charles Toys. The Jackson home is practically three-quarters complete and we are thinking of moving over to the observation platform at the Peterson homestead. "Pete" should be commencing ground-breaking for the foundation most any day now.

Our winter projects are mostly in the maintenance category this year. We are, however, installing a three-pair cable between the Vallecito Camp Site and the Altaville Fire Station. This should add much to better communication service.

Training schools have been and will continue to be held throughout the winter period. Forestry personnel here have been assigned various subjects on which they will be asked to instruct.

Two bright teachers, just returned from an instructors' course, are Assistant Rangers "Pete" Peterson and George Roberts. In training for a school they will be giving soon, they have been rather busy looking for guinea pigs to try out some of their techniques---anyone want to learn how to make a nut cup?

A new employee, recently welcomed to our fold is forest fire truck driver, Earl Mason. Mr. Mason is well acquainted with Calaveras since he lives near Glencoe. Earl joins drivers, Bever, Emerson, Grant, Wolfe, and Schlieman, who all entered Forestry last May.

Almost an old timer here already, is Assistant Ranger George F. Roberts, who came to us from Susanville. We are mighty glad we have him here, too. We might add that George has been with Forestry for quite some time.

This past year three more bachelors have joined the wedded ranks. It is now Mr. & Mrs. Fred C. Schubert, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Emerson, and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wolfe. The Schuberts live at Glencoe and the Emersons at Murphys. The Wolfes are getting settled in a home at Mokelumne Hill. Our very best wishes for a long wedded life go to the happy couples.

Oh, yes, personnel from Beaver Creek Camp is again quartered at our Altaville Fire Station where they will remain until spring,

Mary K. Serra
Intermediate Stenographer-Clerk

LETTER TO MR. HEMAN G. STARK, DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA YOUTH AUTHORITY

"Last summer it was our pleasure to spend our vacation in the Mother Lode country. During our stopover in the old mining district of Jackson, Mrs. Williams

and I decided to pay a visit to the Pine Grove Youth Authority Camp.

"Driving along the tree-lined highway we kept looking for a camp with a cyclone fence, concrete walls and an armed guard. (A false conception perhaps, but this was our mental picture of a correctional school.) Much to our surprise we found only a neat looking sign at the entrance of a side road.

"Following the directions of the sign, we drove through a beautifully wooded lane until we came to a clearing surrounded by clean, neat buildings. In many ways it reminded us of a resort area. A young man greeted us on our arrival and introduced himself as Mr. Oneto, Assistant Superintendent. After explaining our interest in the camp, and commenting on our surprise at what we had found, Mr. Oneto offered to give us a regular "Cook's Tour." I am pleased to say that the tour ended up as an educational experience for both my wife and myself.

"Like thousands of other citizens we read daily of the numerous crimes committed by so many of our young people. Also, like many others, we have muttered to ourselves and expressed definite opinions about what should be done to these young people who offended society.

"When we first saw Pine Grove, a camp surrounded by natural beauty, without fences or barricades, we wondered about this kind of treatment for boys who have broken the law and are subject to punishment according to our system of laws. The more we saw, however, the more aware we became that Pine Grove wasn't to punish, but was to train young men.

"The boys in camp were observing a holiday. We could see many groups of boys involved in many activities throughout the camp area. Some were engaged in athletics, some writing letters, and some just resting or reading. Many of the boys greeted us with "hello" while others wished us a pleasant "good morning."

"We began to wonder whether or not these young men were the same that read about and thought of as "hardened criminals." We were prompted to question Mr. Oneto about his work and the activities of the boys. He explained that the camp works with the State Forestry Service and helps with emergencies that arise in near-by communities. He went on to explain that the boys were there for help, not punishment. He explained that a part of the help grows out of learning to accept limits without actual physical restriction. The boundaries of the camp are not physical, they are established in the minds of the boys. They are not imprisoned - they are on an honor system.

"But what about runaways, we asked. Mr. Oneto acknowledged that some boys do leave camp, but impressed upon us the fact that the majority stay. The runaway problem was not significant when compared with the high percentage of boys who remain in and learn from the camp program.

"As a result of our visit to Pine Grove, we came to a stark realization. We became aware of how limited our knowledge was about the problem of delinquency and the state treatment programs available for delinquent.

"The men working with these boys must have a vast knowledge of human nature, a great love for boys, and an understanding of human frailties to be able to cope with work that presents so many problems and challenges. Mrs. Williams and I offer a salute of admiration and respect to these men who offer their time and talents to give supervision and leadership to boys who have erred.

"These are some of the things that have remained with us as we think back over our visit to Pine Grove. We strongly urge others, who may have the opportunity, to visit the camp and see for themselves the constructive work being done by the California Youth Authority with these young men.

/s/ Art Williams, Superintendent
Craig Shipbuilding Company
Long Beach, California"

MADERA-MERCED RANGER UNIT

This has been the month of vacations for the most part. Every attempt was made to get personnel on vacations or working off accumulated compensating time off. Those of us who were not off were winterizing roads and equipment. A number of our personnel were sent to Southern California to help with wild fires.

The Madera-Merced Ranger Unit only had one wildland fire of ten acres during the dry month of December.

Two, two-day periods were devoted to a defensive driving course at the Madera headquarters and the Madera County Fairgrounds for all Madera-Merced and Mariposa Ranger Unit personnel. Associate Ranger Brad Williams was in charge assisted by Assistant Ranger's Al Kessler, Jack Couste, John Lewis, and Joe Griggs. All personnel seemed impressed by the things pointed out by this course, and we feel that it will help us greatly in preventing accidents to state vehicles as well as perhaps help insure our own personal safety and well being as concerns driving. The course seems to be well worthwhile. Several of our personnel have seen fit to get themselves glasses as a result of what they learned about their eyes in the eye examination given to us by the local Department of Motor Vehicles personnel. This action was taken voluntarily on the part of the employees concerned and would tend to show the respect for the course.

G. O. Phibbs
State Forest Ranger

The following is a copy of a letter written by an individual in the vicinity of Oakhurst and forwarded to the Madera County Board of Supervisors as a result of the efforts of a Rural Volunteer Fire Department, which has been organized and trained by Division of Forestry personnel, using an old County-owned fire truck which was replaced in the floor of the valley by a new unit. There are two of these Volunteer Rural Fire Departments in the mountain area presently and they represent the co-operative effort on the part of the Division of Forestry and the Board of Supervisors to furnish at least a token of fire protection to those areas that the County could not afford to include under the Schedule "A" agreement at that time. Very good reception has been had as concerns the idea, and several very good saves have been made as concerns fighting structural fires by these volunteers.

"Village Department Store
Oakhurst, Dec. 29, 1956

"The Board of Supervisors
County of Madera
Madera, California

"As you may know there has been a fire in our store, The Village Department

Store on Highway 41 in Oakhurst on December 19. An alarm was turned in and the engine of the recently established Sierra Rural Volunteer Fire Department responded within minutes. The crew was successful in bringing the fire under control and limiting the damage to stock and fixtures in the store. As a matter of fact the major portion of the damage was caused by smoke. Actual fire damage was limited while water damage was negligible due to the fact that extreme caution was exercised by the firemen.

"The purpose of my letter is twofold. In the first place I wish to thank you and congratulate you on your wisdom and foresight in making county fire trucks available to volunteer fire departments in rural areas. In the second place I feel you should be acquainted with the manner in which our fire department handled its first structural fire. When the engine arrived temperatures inside the building were extremely high. It later proved that cast aluminum appliances were melted out of shape and plastic items as far as 40 feet from the actual fire melted completely. Chief DeVere Williams, who arrived with the truck, made a quick appraisal of the situation, gave his orders to the crew, which responded like veterans, and brought the fire under control.

"Representatives of the National Board of Underwriters and the Underwriters Salvage Company stated that without the fire department the building and almost certainly the adjacent grocery and hardware store would have been totally lost, causing damage estimated to be close to \$100,000. Both gentlemen were unanimous in their praise for the way in which Chief Williams attacked the fire. They stated that with the high temperatures inside a closed space, one false move or the slightest delay would have resulted in a total loss of the entire structure, which includes our living quarters.

"There is no doubt that the fire could not have been as efficiently put out, had it not been for the training sessions for the fire department held by Mr. John Lewis of the Forestry Service. His instructions proved not only valuable to the entire crew, but particularly to me personally.

"Our family is extremely grateful to our Fire Department, to you, who made it possible and to Mr. Lewis who trained us.

Yours very sincerely,
s/ Frank Binnendyk"

The following letter was recently written to the Madera County Board of Supervisors from the Underwriters Salvage Company of New York, expressing their recognition of a good job done by the Volunteer Fire Department, which we have recently organized and are presently working with, as applies to the area of Oakhurst, Ahwahnee, and Coarsegold:

"Having just finished salvage operations following the fire in the Village Department Store at Oakhurst, we wish to compliment you on the fine work done by your fire department in that community. The Chief and his volunteer crew are to be highly commended for the efficiency with which they performed their duties.

"The efficiency resulted in much better salvage returns to the insurance company and made inventory and salvage work much easier.

"The quick detection of the fire by the insured (one of your volunteers)

resulted in very quick response of the department and rapid control of fire with very little actual fire damage - the bulk of damage was from smoke.

"Wishing you and your Board the best for the coming year, we remain

Very truly yours,

Underwriters Salvage Company of New York
s/ C.T. Rigg, Special Agent"

KINGS COUNTY

Greetings to one and all, and best wishes for a New Year crowded with happy days.

Until last week, the start of this year had all the aspects of another dry season. There has been heavy fog on the valley floor which made driving very unpleasant. The recent rains have cleared this situation. It looks like the green crops will have a good start now.

The Stratford Volunteer Fire Department had a big turnout for their annual dance held last Saturday night. The whole town turned out for the affair and many of the guests were from coast cities. A six man Fresno orchestra played until the early hours and there was no end to the coffee, cake, and sandwiches.

Randle Watkins, one of the drivers at headquarters, was married in an afternoon ceremony January 5th. He has returned from his honeymoon and is taking a ribbing with a smile.

Driver Elwood Kemble of the Guernsey Station is back on the job again after a serious eye injury. Others on our sick list included Florence Appell, clerk and dispatcher, who was confined to a hospital for a few days and now back on the job feeling much better, and Mrs. N. O. Stephens who has been confined to house limits for the past week with a very bad cold. Bad colds also hit some of our drivers and at present they are all on the mend.

C. E. Lindley
Associate State Forest Ranger

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS FOR RANGER GUM

Ranger Lester H. Gum of Santa Cruz County was presented with a 25-year service pin on November 7, 1956. The ceremony was held at the Palomar Hotel in Santa Cruz in conjunction with a meeting of all District V Rangers and Associate Rangers. The presentation was made by Deputy Moran.

Les started to work for the Division as a Ranger in Lake County on May 15, 1931. He went from there to Butte County the following spring. The next year he was transferred to Tehama County where he resided until February, 1936. His next move was to Shasta County until September, 1939, at which time he came to his present job at Felton.

When asked about his early experiences, Les related the following:

"One morning while I was in Shasta County I went outside for a breath of air. I looked north and saw smoke; I turned west and saw more smoke; the same was true for the southern and eastern directions. That's when I decided the best thing to do was to go back to bed."

Fred W. Keast
Associate Ranger

DISTRICT VI

Our last contribution to the News Letter contained our thanks to mid-State men who came down to visit us in September. Now we want to thank those who came down in late November from all the Districts. Unfortunately, two are still here due to near-fatal burns received on the San Bernardino fire. They are Assistant Ranger Jim Johnson of Monterey County and Fire Fighter Richard Mennhalter of Santa Clara County. Both are making steady improvement at the Redlands Community Hospital, but will be there for a number of weeks yet undergoing plastic surgery.

We also wish to express our appreciation for the existence of this medium by which we can thank all of you for your recent help and tell you of the condition of those who were unable to return with you. We would like to add that we hope all Districts will start using the News Letter so as to assure its future existence.

Speaking of November and its hectic last ten days of 15,000 and 44,000 acre fires, its 483 fires ranked it highest of the year. Even December may exceed August. Who said anything about a fire season? We are learning to speak of fire years. Incidentally, for the records, the San Diego Inaja Fire went ten miles for 10,000 acres in four hours from the crackle of the match. Downhill, at that.

We understand that rain is deficient all over the State. "Water, water, any kind of water, even Feather River water."

We neglected to mention Foreman Ganns of Oak Glen when telling of the recovery of the burned men. Jim was only off a few days. Thanks to his foresight, his crew was safely left behind while he scouted. In case you don't know, the bulldozer operator who died was with a supplier to the U.S.F.S., not a member of a fire fighting agency. However, he was related to our own Ranger Truman Holland.

The eleven men who died as a group on the San Diego fire were seven county prisoners, one of their leaders, and three U.S.F.S. men, one of whom was a 18-year-old Cleveland Forest man, while the others were from Lassen and Trinity Forests. The Indian boy who playfully tossed the match and started the San Diego death-dealing fire has been turned over to juvenile authorities. The rest of our nuts are still running at large so we need not fear of future insufficient acreage to justify the forces.

Seeding of the San Bernardino burns has been taking place but, so far, lack of rain has largely nullified the possibilities of success. Actual seeding in San Diego is still in the planning stage.

With the above information, we close and wish you a HAPPY 1957 !!

Doug Glenn
Dispatcher

When the pencil smoke had cleared away from the first rounds of the A. R. Exam, the following were still on the line: E. Benson, F. Cain, D. Flake, D. Glenn, L. Gordon, S. Heidanus, T. Holland, D. Keys, G. W. King, G. Letson, O. Monsen, W. Peterson, N. Tibbs, J. Whitlock, and L. Worsham. The second thrust (Orals) has just been completed, but the smoke of battle has not yet cleared away.

We all had smoke in our eyes while trying to cram for the 165 tongue-twisting, memory-testing questions. As many of you know, we burned quite a few acres down here both before and after the exam. While doing so, we also set the year's highest two-day number of Zone 3 fires -- this in December and second highest Zone 1-2, this in November. That little "Inaja" fire in San Diego almost set a record for itself. In its first six hours, she loped ten miles and took 10,000 acres.

Many thanks to all the Districts who helped us both in November and December. We would also like to report that Mennhalter and Johnson of District V are coming along with their healing. Jim Johnson says he expects to shuffle at our District Dinner Dance on Friday, March 8th, at Oakvale Lodge - Lake Wohlford. Hope some of our other old buddies, friends, and what-have-you will see their way down that evening.

Unfortunately, several of our own men are physically unable to make the dance. Rainbow's Ed Brown underwent surgery February 14th, and is not yet out of the critical stage. Neil Parker had a hand grenade explode in his hands and was chewed up quite badly. He'll be off the work list for a few months.

Just for clarification, we might say that men burned in San Diego County were all County prisoners plus their guard, and under the direction of two Shasta-Trinity men and one young Cleveland Forest man. The equipment operator on the San Bernardino fire was a U.S.F.S. hired man.

Doug Glenn
Dispatcher

ORANGE COUNTY FORMS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Following in the footsteps of District IV, we have formed an Employees' Association in Orange County. Riverside County and San Diego County have also formed their associations, and it looks like we will have a District VI Association in the near future. We hope that eventually this association will spread state-wide.

Our officers are: President - Jim Dulitz; Vice President - Jerry Letson; Secretary-Treasurer - Ordean Monsen. We would appreciate hearing from any of you.

Ordean Monsen
Secretary-Treasurer

JAMES K. MACE ELECTED A DIRECTOR OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Deputy State Forester James K. Mace was elected a Director of the Southern California Fire Chiefs' Association at their meeting at Inglewood on January 25. That a member of the Division of Forestry should be so honored by an organization primarily devoted to structural fire problems is an indication of the respect and confidence our Division has earned through the years.

Deputy Mace stated that he felt his selection as a Director was a tribute to the work being done by every man in the District VI organization.